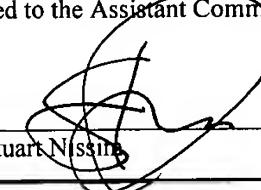




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22 April 2003


Stuart Nissim

1652
#71Rw
05.01.03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
MIDORI SHIMA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/018,875

Filed on: 22 March 2002

For: SERINE PROTEASE INHIBITOR

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Swope, S.

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2003

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Official Action dated March 26, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response of thirty (30) days, the Restriction Requirement therein is respectfully traversed in view of the reasons set forth below.

REMARKS

1. The Official Action states that the present application contains three (3) distinct inventions and categorizes them into three (3) groups of claims. The Official Action states that the three groups are distinct because "they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature . . . {that] defines a contribution over the prior art" based upon an allegation that the invention of Groups I, II and III (claims 1 – 13) "do not define a contribution over the prior art {Cook et al.}."